



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about upcoming activities, projects and events in the city of Branson

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2010

Sign up for Fall Citizens Academy

Branson residents can learn more about the workings of city government and how it impacts their daily lives by signing up for the next Citizens Academy. Fall classes begin Monday evening, September 20, and there's still room for more participants.

The Academy is an eight-week session designed to provide citizens with a close up view of all facets of city government – from emergency services and transportation to the business of water and budgeting your tax dollars. Citizens get a behind-the-scenes look at city services, and an opportunity to interact with the employees who deliver those services

To sign-up for the fall Citizens Academy, contact Jerry Adams at Branson City Hall, 337-8526 or e-mail at jadams@bransonmo.gov. There is no cost.

City finances weathering weak economy

Despite a weak national economy, the City of Branson continues to hold its own when it comes to sales tax revenues. For July, the tourism tax revenue increased 17.3% from the same month in 2009. For the year, tourism tax revenue is up 5.3%. Tourism taxes are levied on tourist related businesses like attractions including theaters, lodging and restaurants.

The city's general sales tax on all retail businesses is practically even with last year — up \$888.

Total revenue for the city this year exceeds expenditures by \$6.5 million.

Branson visitations staying steady

Overall visitation in the Branson area for January through June was just under three million compared to 2009. This is a decrease of only 0.4%. But the city's strongest tourist months are yet to come — fall through Christmas.

With the opening of the Branson Airport in spring 2009, the number of visitors flying into Branson has increased from 6% in 2009 to 8.2% for the first half of this year.

More space coming to police department



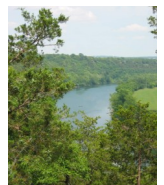
Construction begins soon to expand the Branson Police Department facilities on the first floor of city hall. The \$52,000 renovation will include enlarging the locker room area for officers and providing more office space. Police is the largest department in the city with 60 employees.

New speed limit on Francis Street

Motorists need to be aware that the speed limit on Francis Street between Highway 76 and Gretna Road has been increased. The new speed limit will be 35 mph, up from the previous 25 mph.

Lake cleanup September 18

The City of Branson is one of the sponsors of the first ever Lake Taneycomo cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The cleanup will start at three locations: West of Branson Landing, Rockaway Beach and Powersite Park in Forsyth. To volunteer go to www.trlwq.com.



Doggie dive-in September 6



The popular "Doggie Dive-In" is Monday, September 6 (Labor Day). The Branson AquaPlex will allow your furry four legged friend a chance to swim from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Each dog must have a handler and the cost is \$3.00 a dog. Donations of dog food, treats, etc. will be accepted for the Taney County Humane Society.

City of Branson
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours
8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor
Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen
Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd
Sandra Williams

City Administrator
Dean Kruithof

**Board of Aldermen
meeting schedule**
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers
City Hall

City offices closed
Monday
September 6 in
observance of
Labor Day

Autumn Daze September 16-19 Downtown Branson



**Craftsmen
Artists
Entertainment**

Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

In 2009, the city received and responded to 155 citizen requests.

New businesses in town

**Freddy's Frozen Custard
1185 Branson Hills Pkwy**

**Partners in Health Care
1232 Branson Hills Pkwy
Suite 106**



Preston Peper (left) and Alderman Bob Simmons

City Employee of the Month

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Preston Peper received the August Employee of the Month award. Preston was recognized for going "above and beyond" in serving as the director again this year for the recent Andy's Frozen Custard Mid-America Youth Basketball Tournament. This is a tournament where teams play at five area locations including the Branson RecPlex, and Preston has served as director for the past four years. He puts in nearly 35 hours during the three-day, weekend event, which grew from 44 teams last year to 56 teams this year. It is also the largest single event that the parks and recreation department operates with its staff, grossing almost \$20,000 in revenue.



David Miller (right) with City Administrator Dean Kruithof.

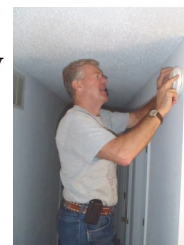
City engineer on the job 20 years

City Engineer and Public Works Director David Miller was recognized for 20 years of service to the city. As engineer and public works director, David is responsible for all capital projects and infrastructure construction in the city, including streets and transportation and municipal buildings. Since 1990, he has managed nearly \$600 million in capital expenditures, taking projects from concept through to completion. In 2009, David was named a Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association.

City employees "care" for the community

Fourteen employees from the city participated in the annual Community Caring Day August 17. This year's project for the city crew was refurbishing a house in Merriam Woods for Homes of Hope. Homes of Hope builds houses and remodels existing ones to be occupied by low-income families. The was the 13th year for Caring Day with the city providing volunteers.

**Fire Chief Carl Sparks
Installs smoke detector**



Convention center topping budget

July was a strong month for the Branson Convention Center. Total revenue exceeded budget by \$10,000 and is ahead of last year by \$38,000 through July. Also, the booking pace for 2010 is up 16% compared to 2009. Since opening in August 2007, the convention center has hosted 408,370 attendees.



New traffic lights at north side intersection

A second set of traffic signals is being installed at the intersection of U.S. Highway 65 and Branson Hills Parkway. Specifically, the signals are where the southbound off-ramp of US 65 intersects with Branson Hills Pkwy near the Wal-Mart Supercenter. The Missouri Department of Transportation and developer of Branson Hills are paying for the signals.

Firefighters grill steaks for MDA

Firefighters at Station #2 fired up the grills, prepared steak sandwiches and sold them along with chips and a soft drink for \$7 to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The firefighters turned Station 2 into a popular lunchtime hotspot serving over 325 customers and raising \$1,650 for MDA. This was the first year for the cookout, but will now become an annual event



City using speed bumps for safer streets



Speed Cushions (also known as Speed Tables or Speed Humps) have been installed on Cliff Drive and on Town Center Drive behind the Wal-mart SuperCenter. Preliminary observations indicate they're doing a good job slowing down speeding motorists. These cushions are portable and can be unbolted from the pavement and relocated to other areas. On Cliff Dr, the bumps replaced a stop sign to slow down vehicles.